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NEWS RELEASE

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD EXECUTIVE OFFICER ISSUES \$225,000 IN COMPLAINTS FOR MANDATORY MINIMUM PENALTIES

SACRAMENTO – The Executive Officer of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has issued \$225,000 in Administrative Civil Liability Complaints for assessment of Minimum Mandatory Penalties (MMPs) to several Valley entities for numerous violations of permitted effluent limits at their wastewater treatment plants.

The entities include the City of Tracy; the communities of Mountain House, Linda, and Granite Bay; UC Davis, the Department of Corrections' Deuel Vocational Institute, and Tsar Nicoulai Caviar fish farm.

The complaints may be considered at the Central Valley Water Board's regular public meeting on June 11 or 12, 2009.

The City of Tracy faces \$78,000 in MMPs for effluent limitation violations that occurred at the wastewater treatment plant from February 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. The City violated the effluent limitations for dichlorobromomethane, chlorodibromomethane, total chlorine residual, aluminum, biochemical oxygen demand, pH, total coliform organisms, settleable solids, and total suspended solids. Treated wastewater is discharged to Old River, which is part of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The Mountain House Community Services District faces \$30,000 in MMPs for effluent limit violations that occurred at the wastewater treatment plant from February 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. The District violated effluent limitations for dibromochloromethane and dichlorobromomethane. Treated wastewater is discharged to Old River, which is part of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The Linda County Water District operates a wastewater treatment plant serving the unincorporated area of Linda, in Yuba County. The District is subject to \$18,000 in MMPs for effluent limit violations between May 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008. The District violated the effluent limitations for biochemical oxygen demand, chlorine, and Dibenzo(a,h)anthracene. Treated wastewater is discharged both to the Feather River and to evaporation/percolation ponds that lie within the 100-year flood plain of the Feather River.

Placer County Sewer Maintenance District #3 operates a wastewater treatment plant that serves the community of Granite Bay. The District is subject to \$57,000 in MMPs for effluent limit violations for the period from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. The effluent limits for ammonia, manganese, and pH were exceeded. Treated wastewater is discharged to Miner's Ravine.

The University of California operates a wastewater treatment plant at its Davis campus. The University's \$27,000 penalty represents the sum of the statutory MMPs for effluent limitation violations that occurred from April 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. The University violated the effluent limitation for electrical conductivity. Wastewater is discharged into the South Fork of Putah Creek.

The California Department of Corrections operates a wastewater treatment plant at the Deuel Vocational Institute near Tracy, and faces \$12,000 in MMPs. The penalty represents the sum of the statutory MMPs for effluent limitation violations that occurred from June 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. The Department of Corrections violated the effluent limitations for tetrachloroethene and total dissolved solids. The wastewater is discharged to Deuel Drain, which is tributary to Paradise Cut and Old River, and which in turn are part of the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta.

Tsar Nicoulai Caviar, LLC operates a sturgeon farm in south Sacramento County, and faces \$3,000 in MMPs for violations of the effluent limit for iron. Treated wastewater from the fish ponds is discharged to an unnamed tributary of the Cosumnes River.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board is a California state agency responsible for preservation and enhancement of quality in water resources and may consider all the complaints at its regular public board meeting on June 11 or 12, 2009.